

The proposal falls short of addressing the health care needs of the American people. It is clear that the concerns of the American people are being ignored again.

The proposal that has been introduced is a fake and (it is) a sham. Real managed care should guarantee a fast appeals process, patient access to specialists, coverage for emergency services without having to call in first, patient choice of plans at their own expense, and also make the people who make those irresponsible medical decisions accountable for those decisions.

That is why the American people in November are going to make that decision, and not necessarily in the gallery of the House today. We need real managed care reform. We need to hold insurance companies accountable for their decision-making, just like we held welfare mothers accountable during the welfare reform bill.

#### PRESIDENT TO SUSPEND HELMS-BURTON

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, today unfortunately, the President will once again suspend the Helms-Burton law, which passed overwhelmingly in the House and allows U.S. citizens to sue those immoral foreign investors who traffic in American confiscated properties on the island.

This decision is yet another sad example of the administration's slippery slide toward further relaxation of sanctions on the brutal dictatorship of Fidel Castro. And what has Castro done to deserve any weakening of sanctions? Nothing. Absolutely nothing. Human rights violations continue, the harassment of dissidents proceeds, and there are no signs of any democratic openings on the island.

How ironic that the President's weak decision comes as we commemorate the fourth anniversary of the massacre by Castro of 50 Cubans, mostly women and children, who attempted to flee the island on a rickety tugboat.

The President can justify his decisions with the legalisms that have now made the White House spin doctors famous, but these false justifications will not help the suffering people of Cuba rid themselves of the totalitarian regime that oppresses them day in and day out.

#### DEMOCRAT PATIENT PROTECTION BILL

(Mr. MILLER of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, today millions of Americans will visit their family physician seeking medical care, and, for thousands and thousands of those Americans,

they will be told by their family physician that they will not be able to see the specialist that they need to see, they will not be able to get the medicine that the physician thinks they need, they will not be able to get the medical procedure that their physician believes they should have. They cannot do that because some HMO bureaucrat is saying, we are not going to allow you to do that. We are not going to allow you to do that because we are going to try to save money, as opposed to dealing with your real health care needs.

The Democratic patient protection bill ensures that Americans have access to specialists, that Americans have access to the medicines they need, that Americans have access to the operations that are necessary to preserve their health. It does this in the patient protection bill that the President will be coming to Capitol Hill to support today.

Yesterday the Republicans introduced their HMO protection bill. They decided that rather than protect the Americans for health care, they would protect the HMOs.

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While they say they extend protections to Americans, they leave 100 million uninsured Americans out of these protections, 100 million Americans that will not be able to get the medicines, that will not be able to see the specialists, that will not be able to get the medical procedures necessary for their health care.

#### CONGRESS STANDS BY THE CUBAN PEOPLE AND AGAINST TYRANNY

(Mr. DIAZ-BALART asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, one year ago today, July 16, 1997, four of the most distinguished and respected leaders of the pro-democracy movement inside Cuba were picked up in their homes by the political police and thrown into Castro's prisons.

Economist Marta Beatriz Roque, Social Democratic Party President Vladimiro Roca, former university professor Felix Bonne, and attorney Rene Gomez Manzano have languished in Castro's prisons for 1 year without Castro even having decided what to charge them with.

Yesterday, in an open letter to the foreign press and Diplomatic Corps, Vladimiro Roca asked for "a fair and public trial" for himself and the three other dissident leaders.

The letter, distributed by his wife, states, "We wish to draw public attention to our situation, and to demand a fair and public trial in the presence of the foreign press and any diplomats accredited in Cuba who may wish to attend, in proceedings both transparent and above board."

Mr. Speaker, in what constitutes an embarrassment to mankind, there is a

conspiracy of silence regarding the suffering of Cuba, but the Congress of the United States of America will continue to stand on the side of the Cuban people and against the tyranny that oppresses them until Cuba is free.

#### WE NEED A PATIENT PROTECTION ACT NOW

(Mr. LEWIS of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, we need a Patient Protection Act. I know because I have heard from the people in my district. I have heard from a mother with a sick baby who had to travel 30 miles to a hospital when there was a hospital nearby. I heard from a doctor who had to fight to get coverage to treat his cancer. Mr. Speaker, too many patients are paying more and getting less. Under the present system, too many patients are getting a raw deal. They need a fair deal, a good deal, a better deal.

If insurance companies want to make decisions about medical care for our children and our families, then they must be held accountable. The Democratic bill will give us those rights. The Republican bill will deny them.

Mr. Speaker, we need a real Patient Protection Act and we need it now; not tomorrow, not next week, not next year, but now.

#### TAX RELIEF

(Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, last year Republicans passed the first tax relief bill in 16 years. Did Members know that even after that, the tax burden on American workers is still nearly 40 percent? Americans ought to be enraged over that, and I am.

Just yesterday we find out, after a fourth revision, that we now have a surplus of \$580 billion over 5 years. It is only right we return some of that money back to hardworking Americans. After all, it came right out of their back pocket.

Mr. Speaker, the President and some of the Senate are balking at returning this money to its rightful owners, American citizens. As part of our balanced budget and protection of Social Security, the House voted to give \$100 billion in tax relief, which equals only one penny on the dollar. Americans want, need, and deserve tax relief, and I think surely we can find one penny on the dollar to give back to hardworking citizens in this country.

#### BEWARE OF THE REPUBLICANS' INSURANCE BILL OF RIGHTS

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address